

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OIC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7600

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1550

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCOM, SPC

SUBJECT: FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL CONCERNING
SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

REF: PARIS 5548

1. ACCORDING TO DFA, AUSTRALIA DOES NOT INTEND TO PRESS
FORMALLY FOR ANY CHANGES IN THE STATUTE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
COMMISSION DURING MAY MEETINGS IN NAURU. AT LAST CONFERENCE
ALSO HELD IN NAURU SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1975, GOA PROPOSED THAT
THERE BE A COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE WORK PROGRAM
OF THE SPC. HOWEVER, THE GOA DID NOT PROPOSE THAT THIS
COMMITTEE REVIEW THE AGREEMENT ITSELF. WHILE THE GOA BE-
LIEVES THAT MANY ISLANDERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME CHANGES
IN THE AGREEMENT, AND WHILE THE GOA ITSELF DOES NOT LIKE
SOME OF ITS PROVISIONS, E.G. METROPOLITAN POWERS HAVING
MULTIPLE VOTING RIGHTS, THE GOA HOPES THAT INTERESTED
PARTIES MIGHT AGREE EVENTUALLY TO ADOPT SOME CHANGES IN-
FORMALLY WITHOUT RECOURSE TO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

2. DFA REP ALSO NOTED THAT GOA HAD SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF
HOLDING A CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA IN 1977 TO REVIEW THE
WORK OF THE COMMISSION. HOWEVER, GOA IS NOT PUSHING
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FOR THIS. RATHER GOA BELIEVES THAT CERTAIN IMPROVE-

MENTS IN THE WORK PROGRAM ALONG WITH SOME MINOR
CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION COULD LESSEN THE ISLANDERS'
DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SPC AND MAKE A CANBERRA CON-
FERENCE UNNECESSARY. HARGROVE

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